

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
April 25, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Murdock Room - IDHS  
Suite 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center  
130 W. Mason Street  
Room 104  
Springfield, Illinois

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

**Commissioners**

In Chicago

Martin R. Castro, Chairman  
Robert A. Cantone  
David Chang  
Terry Cosgrove  
Marylee V. Freeman (Via telephone)  
Nabi Fakroddin  
Spencer Leak, Sr.  
Munir Muhammad (Via telephone)  
Rozanne Ronen  
David J. Walsh  
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir  
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

none

**Staff**

Michael J. Evans  
Reva Bauch  
LaNade Bridges  
Donyelle L. Gray

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Evelio Mora  
Elizabeth Rios  
Christine Welninski

**Members of Public:** None

**NOTICE:**

Public meetings and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

**I. Call to Order**

On April 25, 2012, at 10:01 a.m., Chairman Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Muhammad and Freeman gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Acting General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle L. Gray, that they would be unable to be physically present at today's meeting.
- 3) Prior to the meeting Commissioners Muhammad and Freeman requested to participate via telephone. The Commission voted to allow Commissioners Muhammad and Freeman to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

March 21, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012, meeting as amended. The March 21, 2012 minutes are amended to reflect that prior to the March 21, 2012 meeting, Chairman Castro gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the Acting General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle L. Gray, that he would be unable to attend the March 21, 2012, meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 13-0.

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**III. Chairman's Report**

*Martin R. Castro, Chairman*

Chairman Castro welcomed Commissioner Chang back to the Commission following his reappointment, and congratulated Commissioner Yadgir on her confirmation by the General Assembly.

Chairman Castro announced that he will be speaking at the Springfield Unity Luncheon in Springfield, Illinois on May 8, 2012 in his capacity as Chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

Chairman Castro reported that he attended the Illinois Human Rights Agencies Conference in Danville, Illinois.

The Chairman updated the Commission on the status of the alleged profiling issue in the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. The McHenry County Sheriff's Department will be working with the Illinois Department of Human Rights for training resources. The Chairman further reported that the Illinois Attorney General ("IAG") has not responded to his correspondence. However, the Chairman did speak to a staff attorney at the office of the IAG, who indicated the IAG had commenced an investigation into the matter.

**IV. Staff Reports**

*A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers could not attend the April 25, 2012 *en banc* meeting. He submitted his written report prior to the meeting.

*B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa reported that the HRC is currently working at a surplus.

Dr. Ewa further reported that the position of General Counsel has not been filled as well as the vacant ALJ position. Dr. Ewa reported that he is still waiting for the Governor's office to approve the EPAR on the General Counsel's position. The OMB has directed the Commission to leave the ALJ position vacant.

Dr. Ewa also reported that he had to remove the \$100,000.00 Fair Housing funds from the HRC's budget.

*C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of March 2012.

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Judge Evans also reported on recent developments in the Circuit Court. Judge Evans reported that Judges in the Circuit Court have been dismissing cases filed against the State of Illinois pursuant to the Human Rights Act on the basis that the State is immune from being sued in the circuit court.

*D. Donyelle L. Gray, Acting General Counsel*

Ms. Gray reminded the Commissioners that Statements of Economic Interest are due. Ms. Gray further reminded the Commissioners that she must review the statements before being submitted.

Ms. Gray informed the Commissioners of a new training requirement, which was that the Commissioners had to complete online Open Meetings Act training by the end of the calendar year. Ms. Gray provided the Commissioners with written instructions on accessing the online portal necessary to begin testing.

Ms. Gray also reminded the Commissioner of the Ethics training requirement for all state appointees, and requested they complete the training and remit the certificates of completion to the OGC by July 2012.

Ms. Gray announced that two students will join the Commission this summer as Coles Fellows: Emily Coffey and Mary Leukam.

Ms. Gray briefly reported of outreach performed by the OGC.

**V. Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business

**VI. New Business**

*A. Meet the HRC Staff*

Elizabeth Rios introduced herself and explained her duties at the Commission.

*B. Anti-Bullying Legislation*

Commissioner Yadgir reported on the status of Anti Bully Legislation, specifically HB 5290. Commissioner Yadgir reported that the Bill passed in the Illinois House of Representative.

Commissioner Cantone reported that the General Assembly amended the bill and removed key provisions that would have required the Illinois State Board of Education to create a template for model anti-bullying and reporting policies. Commissioner Cantone also distributed material on recent developments in bullying.

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Chairman Castro suggested making a public statement regarding the amended Bill.

**VII. Executive Session**

No Executive session.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Walsh. Motion carried 13-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
Acting General Counsel